



2005

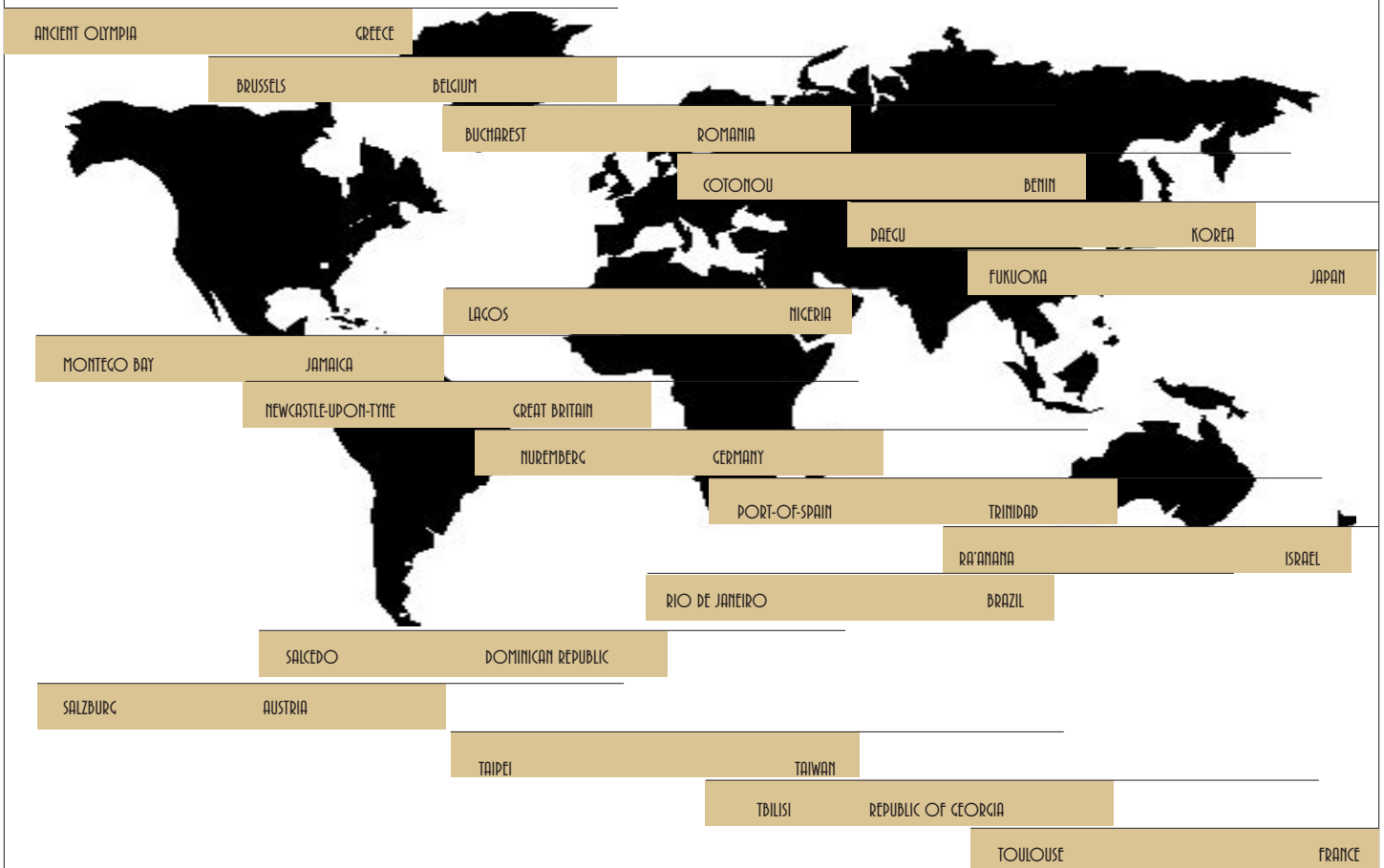
ANNUAL REPORT



A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

2005

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A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S

C O M M I S S I O N

2005

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TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Lisa Borders
President, Atlanta City Council

FROM

Teri Simmons
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2005 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2005 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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C O M M I S S I O N

2005 INTRODUCTION

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the ASCC membership. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Teri Simmons was elected as Chair, and Dr. Arnold Heller as Vice Chair, in 2005.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2005 were Cedric Suzman, Ph.D and Samuel Bacote. Debra Snell was appointed by the City Council.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers include:

Secretary
Treasurer

Charleise Young, Ph.D
Nick Modares

Other standing committees of the Commission are listed opposite.

Staff

The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly and special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2005, Claire McLeveigh, director of External Affairs and International Relations, played a vital role as coordinator for the Mayor's Office.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.atlantaga.gov/International/SisterCities.aspx

Atlanta's Sister City Committees

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Margo Alexander, Ph.D.
Brussels - Belgium	1983	
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Charleise Young, Ph.D.
Daegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Fukuoka	2005	Ms. Sumiko Renfroe
Lagos - Nigeria	1974	Augustine O. Esogbue, Ph.D.
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin, Atty
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Teri Simmons, Atty
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Mrs. Wilma Kruger
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Arnold Heller, Ph.D.
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Chang/David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	BG (R) Thomas McCullough
Toulouse - France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission - Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Executive Committee	Ms. Teri Simmons
Fund Raising Committee	Cedric Suzman
Nominating Committee	Vin Martin, Atty
Economic Development	Young Kang/David Smith
Education	Charleise Young
Public Relations	David Smith
New Cities	Augustine O. Esogbue

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The New Cities Development Committee



Signing of the Atlanta - Fukuoka sister city agreement by Mayors Franklin and Yamasaki.

- ❖ The highlight of the year was the official twinning and signing ceremonies between the City of Fukuoka, Japan, and the City of Atlanta in February 2005. A powerful delegation consisting of the Mayor of Fukuoka, the President of the Fukuoka City Council, and several high ranking officials of the city council as well as a special Japanese orchestra, stormed Atlanta for this memorable occasion.
- ❖ The signing ceremonies featured concerts at the City Hall Atrium, luncheons at the old City Hall Chambers with exchange of gifts and citations, and banquets at local area Japanese restaurants hosted by the Fukuoka delegation, and a reception/dinner hosted by the City of Atlanta at the Southern Center for International Studies. The next logical steps involve a reciprocal visit to Fukuoka by officials of the Atlanta and the Commission.
- ❖ During the rest of the year, the Committee received several inquiries and expressions of interest for twinning with Atlanta from an impressive array of countries. The revised new cities application form was sent to several of them with the highest promise for twinning.
- ❖ The city of Cordoba, located in central Argentina, is an instructive example of one such city which expressed serious interest in twinning. However, although an extensive documentation was provided, no formal twinning application was received. The Committee is working with the Consul General of Argentina to ensure that the requisite procedures are followed.
- ❖ Two of the submitted applications that were reviewed are noteworthy.
- ❖ The first is the application from Hyderabad, India. The Committee was of the opinion that while there is considerable interest in developing a relationship with Hyderabad, its application failed to meet the minimum standards set for twinning. Consequently, the recommendation and approval of the Commission, was to reject the application in its current form.
- ❖ The application of Ramallah on the West Bank was also reviewed following established procedures. The Committee was impressed by the efforts made to develop twinning and felt that it complied with the highest of standards attained by recent successful applications. The Committee felt that Ramallah would offer considerable opportunity for the Commission to live out the principles of 'peace through people' espoused by Sister Cities International by providing a forum for constructive and peaceful engagement of a predominantly Arab city and a predominantly Jewish city, Ra'anana, Israel.
- ❖ A positive twinning recommendation was presented to the Commission which gave its approval. Following established procedures, this recommendation was then transmitted to the Mayor for the next steps.



Photo: Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin watches Fukuoka Mayor Hiroto Yamasaki install the Japanese flag among the flags of nations in the Atrium of Atlanta City Hall.

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Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee

This year the Ancient Olympia committee has been involved in many activities.

❖ In January, the Honorable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Dr. Panayiotis N. Skandalakis met with Dr. Margo Alexander, Mr. Lou Zakas and Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, Co-Chairman. Dr. Panayiotis N. Skandalakis was in Atlanta for the celebration of the completion of the Foundation Chair of Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University.



His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Mr. P. Skandalakis, Mr. L. Kakissis, Dr. G. Kleris.



Above and right: Mr. Lou Zakas, State coordinator of Sister Cities International for the State of Georgia, and Dr. Margo Alexander, chair Atlanta-Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee meet with Dr. G. Xanthaki Kasamaou.

❖ Also in January, Dr. Georgia Xanthaki Kasamaou, a Professor at the Greek University was in Atlanta for the Celebration of Greek Letters Day. This was also in conjunction with the Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University. Dr. Kasamaou was one of the main speakers at the dinner held in recognition of the completion of the Center for Hellenic Studies.



❖ March 25th, Greek Independence Day was celebrated with the Greek Community here in Atlanta, GA with the Consul of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis.

❖ Greek Government Representative, Mr. Antonaros met with The Consulate of Greece, Mr. Lambros Kakissis as well as Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp about foreign relations between the two cities.



Mr. Kakissis, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Mr. Antonaros, Dr. Margo Alexander. Atlanta - Ancient City of Olympia Sister City Committee.

❖ In May, Dr. Stella Zervondaki Minister/Counselor Head of press and Public affairs and member of the European Union Delegation of the European Commission were in Atlanta for EU day.

❖ Mrs. Maria Mandekos Sharp, Co-Chairman, as well as Mr. Lou Zakas went to Greece this summer to meet with Greek officials about an exchange program of students in the area of higher education as well as Greek folk dance and customs.

❖ Along with the Consulate of Greece in Atlanta, the Georgia Federation of Hellenic American Organizations, and the Annunciation Cathedral, we were proud to present Mrs. Linda Leoussi, an Internationally famous Greek pianist and author at the Carlos Museum in November. Mrs. Leoussi gave a lecture recital on 5000 years of Greek music and performed music by the Greek composers Manos Hatjidakis and Miky Theodorakis.

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Atlanta - Taipei Sister City Committee



❖ Taipei is the Capital City of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The sister-city relationship between Taipei and Atlanta, established in 1979, has proved mutually beneficial to both cities, providing the opportunity for economic, academic and cultural exchanges.

❖ Kaohsiung, the second largest city of Taiwan, will host the World Games in 2009. The Taipei committee hosted a nineteen-member delegation visiting Atlanta on September 1, 2005 to learn of Atlanta's successful transformation into an international city, especially after sponsoring the Olympics in 1996. The group visited the Department of Planning and Community Development, Atlanta Sports Council, Atlanta Development Authority and Turner Field. It was a fruitful and informative visit.



Claire McLeveigh, director of External Affairs and International Relations, accompanied the Taiwan delegation visiting Turner Field.

❖ Congratulations! Mayor Shirley Franklin was re-elected November 8, 2005. Mayor Ying-jeou Ma sent his message of congratulations and best wishes for her personal triumph and important achievement for her administration. Mayor Ma also extended his warmest welcome



to Mayor Franklin to visit Taipei in the near future to discuss issues of mutual concern and further strengthen the sister city ties.

One of Taipei's symbolic sites, the National Theater.

❖ Taipei International Healthy City Conference was held October 29-31, 2005. It was the second annual forum. Its purposes are to exchange practical knowledge in creating healthy cities and facilitate global partnerships between civil organizations and municipal administrators. It covers the following ten major themes: safety, understanding, sanitation, culture, efficiency, spiritedness, sustainability, growth, unity, and liveliness of a city. There were about fifty mayors or city leaders from Asia Pacific, Africa, Europe, Central and South Americas, and the U.S. attending the great event.



Atlanta - Cotonou Sister City Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Cotonou Sister City Committee (ACSCC) has 'adopted' Eudes Aolou, a student from Cotonou. Eudes is a graduate student at Georgia State University, majoring in linguistics. He has been introduced to American customs and was invited to Thanksgiving Day dinner with an Atlanta family. In addition, we assisted him on the preparation of a presentation on his country, using souvenirs and artifacts we brought back from our own trips to Cotonou.

❖ Eudes has attended a meeting of the ACSCC and members of the committee are involved in his continued orientation into American and Atlanta cultural activities, in accord with our strategic plan.



Eudes Aolou and ACSCC member Mme. Jeanne Pedanti at an ACSCC meeting at Paschal's Restaurant.

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Atlanta - Bucharest Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta-Bucharest Sister City Committee is an organization that helps to hold together members of the Romanian community. It is about networking, educational, cultural, business, and economic development. The committee has received many inquiries regarding the possibilities of doing business in Romania, specifically Bucharest, from businesses located in Atlanta. The committee works closely with the U.S. Embassy in Romania as well as the Commerce Department regarding economic development matters.
- ❖ During a recent visit to Bucharest, Romania, Nick Modares, Chair, met with his counterpart. At the meeting, the following areas of collaboration were discussed:
- ❖ Exchange visits by office staff members who are actively involved in the sister city relationship, from both Atlanta and Bucharest City Halls.
- ❖ Training and experience for youth actively involved with their local sister city organization. Accommodations to be provided by the host city for the visiting youth.
- ❖ Meetings and exchange of ideas with experts in the fields of urbanism and urban development, local economic development, and rehabilitation of infrastructure and public services, from prestigious institutions in both Atlanta and Bucharest.
- ❖ Variety of cultural and community events hosted by each city.
- ❖ Functions to present and pursue business and foreign investment opportunities, hosted by each city.

Major Activities Planned for 2006:

- ❖ Work with the Romanian Embassy to re-establish an Honorary Consul Office in Atlanta.
- ❖ Develop a Web site.
- ❖ Continue current program and develop additional joint activities with Atlanta's many other Sister City Committees.
- ❖ Work with the largest business brokerage firm in the USA, Sunbelt Business Advisors, to establish presence in Romania. It would be a new concept for the Romanian market. It will be a platform for American businesses to have presence in Romania or for Americans to buy Romanian companies.

A photographic recollection of a decade of friendship.

- ❖ October 12, 1994 - a delegation from the Atlanta Mayors office including Chief of Staff and Nick Modares visited Bucharest and



met with the Mayor of Bucharest for a signing ceremony of our two cities relationship.



- ❖ In 1996, Atlanta-Bucharest Sister Cities Committee got involved with hosting and accommodating the Romanian Olympic Gymnastics Team which won several gold medals.



- ❖ In June 1998, US ambassador to Romania, Mr. James C. Rosapepe, visited Atlanta City Hall and joined Atlanta Sister City Committee.

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Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

❖ A delegation of fourteen headed by Mayor Cho Hae-nyoung paid a visit to the Atlanta City Hall and met Mayor Franklin. Mayor Cho was presented with a Phoenix Award by Mayor Franklin. In commemoration of the upcoming 25th anniversary of establishing a sister city relationship between the two cities next year, Mayor Cho invited Mayor Franklin to Daegu and they also discussed more frequent and proactive cooperation and exchanges.



Above: Daegu delegation visits Mayor Shirley Franklin at Atlanta City Hall.
Left: Mayor Franklin grants the Phoenix award to Mayor Cho.

❖ Prior to this meeting, Mr. Noh Hee-chan, president of the Daegu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Hans Gant, vice president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, met in City Hall and exchanged opinions on economic cooperation between the two cities' enterprises.

❖ The delegation also visited the Atlanta Development Authority and received a brief presentation on major urban development projects including the BeltLine venture. Later on the delegation



visited the Georgia World Congress Center where they met director Bill Miller and general manager Mark Zimmerman.

Daegu delegation visits Atlanta Development Authority.

❖ Mayor Cho Hae-nyoung expressed his deep condolences to the victims and their families and relatives who were affected by hurricane Katrina, and donated US\$2,000 to the Korean Association in Atlanta.

❖ On March 19, 2004 an American Corner opened in the Jungang Public Library. On behalf of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library and Jungang Public Library, his Excellency Thomas C. Hubbard, US Ambassador to Korea, and Mr. Shin Sang-cheol, superintendent of the Daegu Metropolitan Office of Education, exchanged their library membership cards with each other. On September 7, 2005 a librarian of the Jungang public library visited the Fulton public library and discussed mutually beneficial programs.



Above: A librarian of Jungang public library in Daegu visits the Fulton Public Library.

Below: Reception for Atlanta city representatives hosted by Daegu Mayor Cho.



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Atlanta - Fukuoka Sister Cities Committee



Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Fukuoka Mayor Hirotarō Yamasaki at the signing of the sister city agreement.

- ❖ After years of hard work, Atlanta and Fukuoka finally became official sister cities on February 8, 2005. The Fukuoka delegation, headed by Mayor Hirotarō Yamasaki, visited Atlanta to conclude the formal sister city agreement. The ceremony was held at the Atlanta City Hall and attended by officials and dignitaries from city and business communities in the Atlanta area. A world renowned musical group, Ensemble Asia, performed for the guests and city employees in the rotunda of City Hall during the lunch break. The seven member ensemble charmed guests with oriental musical instruments.
- ❖ The Hara Sanshin Hospital in Fukuoka has requested an exchange program with an Atlanta hospital. They wish to send two nurses to visit a modern facility in Atlanta and observe and learn the practices of an American hospital. With the assistance of Atlanta's city staff, arrangements are being worked out with Northside Hospital.
- ❖ Fukuoka held the National Urban Greenery Fukuoka Fair from September to November. All seven Fukuoka sister cities were invited to share in the design of a garden so that the fair would exhibit unique design and their friendship. The Atlanta Botanical Garden organization was kind enough to send the drawing for the Atlanta design to be re-created in the Island City Park in Fukuoka. More than one million visitors enjoyed the international touch among the gigantic greenery exhibits during its operation.

- ❖ The annual event, JapanFest, was held at Georgia's Stone Mountain Park during the last weekend of September. JapanFest celebrated the Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister Cities union by making it their theme for the festival. Fukuoka dispatched an official and staff to Atlanta to visit the Mayor's office and also join in the festivities. As in previous years, "The Friends of Atlanta" in Fukuoka sent many items to be sold at the Fukuoka booth. Many festival visitors were delighted by the opportunity to see and purchase beautiful porcelain Hakata dolls, textiles and other items for sale at cost. The volunteers at the booth enjoyed meeting everyone and gave out Fukuoka brochures. They also answered questions from curious festival attendees and showed a video about Fukuoka.
- ❖ In October, Trade Mission delegates from the Japan America Society of Georgia visited Fukuoka after their South-East US & Japan Annual Meeting in Tokyo. They were welcomed into a bustling business city of 1.4 million residents and were able to take in the beautiful sights of mountains, rivers, Hakata Bay and sample delicious food.
- ❖ To continue with the 10-year tradition, five Atlanta high school students visited Fukuoka in November for a one-week home stay visit accompanied by a chaperon. They visited local schools and were able to experience school Japanese style.
- ❖ The members of the Fukuoka-Atlanta Association meet every other month to further their friendship and promote sister city activities. Anyone is welcome to join us, regardless of their connection to Fukuoka.

Website - Fukuoka-Atlanta Association: www.fukuoka-atlanta.org



Ensemble Asia perform at the Atlanta-Fukuoka sister city signing event.

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Lagos - Atlanta Sister Cities Committee

❖ A continuing feature of the relationship is the exchange of visits between leaders of the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee (LASCC) and the Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee (ALSCC). Several LASCC members visited Lagos and Nigeria during the year. One such visit featured a long time member of the Committee, Mr. Alani Ogunlade, who opened up a new school in his hometown, a few miles outside Lagos.

❖ Prof. Esogbue, chair of the LASCC visited the U.S. Embassy in Lagos to make arrangements for visas for the local committee members who had planned to attend the 2005 SCI Convention in Seattle, Washington. Unfortunately, this proved abortive as the member's application was subsequently denied.

❖ Visit to Atlanta by the ALSCC Chair, Mr. Chike Nwanze. During his visit, he participated in a number of events including chairing the wedding reception of the daughter of former Nigerian Foreign Minister and Former Nigerian Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Ignatius Ollisemeke.

❖ Visits by LASCC Chair to Lagos during which time he (i) conferred with the local Committee and provided advice on their programs and projects (ii) presented a workshop for the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce at its headquarters in Ikoyi, Lagos relative to how to conduct a successful trade mission in the United States, and (iii) visited the U.S. Embassy to plead for the issuance of visas to officials of the ALSCC to enable them (a) attend the annual SCI convention being held in Spokane, Washington and for a visit to their LASCC counterparts in Atlanta, and finally (b) to allow members invited by CIFAL to participate in a Special UN body workshop in AIDS in developing countries.

Nigerian Independence Day award ceremony showing Dr. Esogbue flanked by the ANOG President, Dr. Mecham and members of the EKO (Lagos) Club, Atlanta.



Send off party reception hosted by various Nigerian organizations in Georgia including the LASCC for the outgoing Nigerian Consul General, Hon. Joe Keshi. Pictured from Left to right are: Dr. Martin Okafor, LASCC Chair, Prof. Esogbue, Ms. Jade Adesuyi, Consul for Immigration and Commerce, and departing Consul General, Hon. Joe Keshi.

❖ Professor Esogbue organized the successful conference on Bridging the Scientific and Digital Divide between Nigerian Diaspora and Nigerian experts in Abuja that made several key conference recommendations to President Olusegun Obasanjo in July 2005. In November, he presented a lead paper at the 2005 Workshop on Technology and Modern Warfare at the Nigerian Defense Academy, Abuja, Nigeria.

❖ Participation at various Nigerian groups activities including (i) supporting fellow committee member Dr. Eugenia George, Vice President of Nigerian Women of Georgia (NWAG) in their annual scholarship fund raising dinner. Dr. Esogbue used his position on the ACIR Board to request ACIR's support by purchasing a table at this event that honored U.S. Congresswoman, Cynthia McKinney as Friend of Nigeria and the First lady of Edo State, Nigeria as the Woman of Valor.

❖ Members present included Dr. Esogbue, Mr. Alani Ogunlade, Dr. Femi Ajayi, Mr. Chika Njoku, and Dr. Oke of CDC. (iv) the annual fundraiser of the African Children's Fund banquet which sends books to Nigeria; (v) the GCIV Consular Ball; (vi) organization of the African participation at the WSB TV annual July 4th Parade as part of the ACIR international contingent. Dr. George was appointed to take the lead in this activity. The group was recognized at a special luncheon and ceremony at City Hall.

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") has been in existence since 1972. The following committees have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the relationship and to play upon the strengths of each city. The most active sub-committees are as follows

- Cultural Affairs
- Education
- Fundraising
- Health and Human Services
- Sports
- Trade and Commerce

❖ The committee has 45 registered members and draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.

2005 Activities

❖ **Cultural Affairs:** The Committee played a lead role in planning the celebration of Jamaica's 43rd independence anniversary. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall featuring aspects of Jamaican Gospel music. The Committee hosted a visit by Jamaica's Festival Queen (see photo - right) whose activities included a visit to Atlanta's City Hall. She also visited the Georgia State Capital where she became the first Jamaican to be presented with a Special Citation by the Georgia Legislature.



❖ The Education Committee celebrated the graduation of one of its scholarship recipients who attended Montego Bay High School. This committee also presented a plaque to the most outstanding student attending an academic learning center for teenage mothers. The successful candidate for this award was responding to our challenge to grant special recognition to the most outstanding young lady who excelled in continuation of her education after giving birth. The committee donated reading materials and school supplies to several basic schools in Montego Bay.

❖ **Fund Raising:** The committee engaged in two major fund raising activities in June and September. The first was our fifth annual golf charity tournament and the other was our fund raising ball. The proceeds from these events were used in conducting our Health Mission to Montego Bay and assisted in providing needed medicines to underserved patients. Proceeds from these activities were also used in conducting our other programs and provided necessary financing to cover the vast array of needs which we are committed to satisfy.

❖ **Health and Human Services:** In October 2005, we undertook our twelfth annual medical mission to Montego Bay. Our team comprising 35 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals (see photo below) provided needed medical care to over 3,000 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated thousands of dollars in medicine and medical supplies. Special attention was paid to the HIV/AIDS patients, several of whom are currently receiving their monthly supply of retroviral drugs, through the assistance of the committee. Additionally, as part of our overall commitment to our health mission, we sponsored the third annual luncheon for the HIV/Aids patients and the third annual luncheon for patients of the psychiatric ward at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay.



❖ **Sports:** Our committee assisted in the staging of the inaugural soccer tournament for female high school students in Montego Bay. The committee provided sponsorship for field preparation, equipment and prizes for this competition.

❖ **Municipal Relations:** The committee organized a four day familiarization trip for the poor relief officer from Montego Bay to visit and observe the operation of night shelters in the City of Atlanta. His itinerary, which was organized by the City of Atlanta's director of External Affairs and International Relations, also included a visit to the Atlanta Food Bank.

❖ Toys and financial contribution were made to the annual Christmas treat for the children of Montego Bay hosted by Montego Bay's mayor. The Committee donated several hundred toys to this effort.

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Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee



- ❖ Following the October 2004 investment mission from Atlanta to Newcastle, organized by the British American Business Group of Atlanta (BABG) - one of the largest groups of its kind in the Americas - contacts have been maintained between the participating software, medical, legal and financial services and telecoms companies, and economic development agencies.
- ❖ A member of the Atlanta-Newcastle Sister City Committee is 2006-7 President of the BABG, which holds promise for increased commercial activity between the two cities.
- ❖ The development agencies of Northern England continue to maintain an Atlanta office, which is actively engaged in identifying companies throughout a 7-state territory that would benefit from using the region's resources in the field of information technology, in areas such as networks, telecommunications, financial services, back office systems and medical technology.
- ❖ Nothumbria University continues to act as coordinator for the European 'Centers Abroad' program of the State of Georgia educational system in which periodic exchanges take place between students and academic staff.



Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

- ❖ The Atlanta Nürnberg Sister City Committee has enjoyed a busy year in the areas of business, cultural and educational exchange.
- ❖ For the first time, in April, 2005, businesswomen from Nürnberg and from Atlanta organized a conference 'Crossing Bridges' in Nürnberg. Around one hundred women joined together for the three day event to attend seminars, to exchange ideas and to network. Of the one hundred women, around 20 traveled from Atlanta to participate, including the current Chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, Teri Simmons, and the Chair of the Nürnberg/Atlanta Sister Cities Committee, Lucinda Smith. Both women and men from large Atlanta/Nürnberg firms such as Roedl & Partner/Roedl Langford De Kock and women from government and medium sized businesses participated. The conference is currently being organized for 2006 in Atlanta and the networks established are thriving
- ❖ On the cultural side of exchange, the Push Push Theater and the Nürnberg Theater Mumpitz continued to deepen their three year relationship by organizing an exchange during which Tim Habberger, Cultural Director of the Push Push Theater traveled to Nürnberg and representatives of the Mumpitz theater traveled to Atlanta to conduct workshops and stage performances for those working with the theaters, educators and children. The Push Push Theater estimates that these workshops and performances reached over 2,000 people in Atlanta.
- ❖ Atlanta and Nürnberg will continue focusing on exchange activity including offering scholarships to an Atlanta writer to be in temporary residence in Nürnberg, to artists to display their work in both Nürnberg and Atlanta and to youth in sports. In addition, both cities will continue to expand upon their dialogue about jointly supporting the European Coalition of Cities against Racism.



Conference organizers and keynote speakers gather at the Nürnberg-Atlanta Crossing Bridges Conference.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee is to provide a structure to allow people to give expression of their common desire for friendship and understanding, by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities pursued by APSCC shall be educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The sister city relationship was established in 1987 and there are 15 committee members.

2005 Highlights

- ❖ Visit by members of the Cultural Committee and friends to Trinidad for Carnival Celebrations. Visitors were hosted at several events by the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee.
- ❖ During the first week of April, the Cultural Committee showcased costumes from Carnival 2004, and shared videos, literature, and the music of Trinidad and Tobago, at a private reception. Approximately 40 people attended and Trinidadian dishes were served.
- ❖ Supported the Caribbean Folk Festival in May 2005.
- ❖ Visit to Trinidad by the Chairperson in June 2005 for discussions on the development of youth exchanges, youth development, and friendship through education.
- ❖ Abe Fergusson, Natural Disasters Youth Ambassador, the youngest member of the Port of Spain/ Atlanta Sister City Committee, developed a correspondence relationship with the son of Claire McLeveighn – Director of External Affairs and intergovernmental relations to the City of Atlanta.
- ❖ Abe was chosen the national representative, of Trinidad and Tobago to Japan, where he was selected to represent the Americas and present the joint youth declaration to His Excellency Governor of the Prefecture Mr. Toshizo Ido. He visited and lectured at Yanagi Elementary School, Nagoya, Her-Pin Secondary School and others.
- ❖ He also met with officials of the Inter- Agency Task Force on Natural Disaster Reduction 2005-2015, Building Reliance of Nations and Communities.
- ❖ In Tokyo he met with Cabinet Minister for Natural Disasters, Mr. Yasumasa Kuroda and officials of the Fire Department. He was later asked to represent the Youth Summit at the Children Education and Water at the IV World Water Forum in Mexico City march 16th -22nd, 2006, where he will present the Point Youth Summit Declaration, at the 'Call for Action' at the intergenerational meeting with Government Ministers.



Chairs of the reciprocal sister city committees, Norma Kendall-Hamlet and Gia Gaspard Taylor, flanked by officers and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services.

- ❖ The minister of National Security showered praise on the sister cities relationship when he heard of the training received in Atlanta, by four officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services. Fire Officers Hutchinson, Cook, Burtin and Davis, on their return to Trinidad quickly put the training they received into practice when they rescued a pilot whose car went down a steep cliff on the island's north coast as result of hurricane force rain, wind, severe flooding and landslides.
- ❖ The officers displayed their skills, during a training exercise under the watchful eyes of by both Presidents of the sister cities, Port of Spain/ATL Gia Gaspard-Taylor and ALT/POS - Norma Kendall-Hamlet. The latter was in Trinidad for one week orientation and discussions with her counterpart for the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Urban and Economic Development Conference to be held in Atlanta October 2006.



Abe Fergusson (second from right) with Gia Gaspard Taylor (left) in Japan with youth correspondents and officials of the Ministry of Natural Disasters.

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee

❖ For the Atlanta – Ra'anana Sister City Committee (ARSCC), 2005 marked a year of progress based on important achievements and continuity of the partnership despite significant leadership changes.

❖ On July 1, Zeev Bielski, Mayor of Ra'anana for 16 years, resigned to accept appointment by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Chair the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Congress. The ARSCC honors Mayor Bielski's legacy that is reflected in his involvement in both twinning ceremonies and strong commitment to building a model sister cities program.

❖ Continuity was expressed in the September 4 election of Mr. Nahum Hofree, head of the Education Division of the Ra'anana Municipality, as Mayor of Ra'anana with 47% of the vote. Mayor Hofree had been Principal of Ostrovsky High School in 1998 when the



Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue and Ra'anana Mayor Nahum Hofree

North Atlanta High School student exchange group led by Dr. Arnold Heller, ARSCC Chair, visited Ra'anana.

❖ The student exchange was the catalyst for the sister city partnership that Atlanta and Ra'anana have forged over the past six years. One of Mayor Hofree's first acts as Mayor was to declare his commitment to the sister cities program and call for strengthening friendship and expanding linkages and contact between the two cities.

❖ The most important achievement and highlight of 2005 occurred on November 6 when Mayor Hofree received Georgia Governor Sonny Purdue and a 40 member Georgia technology and trade mission to Israel that included Consul General Shmuel Ben Shmuel, Commissioner Craig Lesser (Georgia Department of Economic Development), Georgia State Senator Tommy Williams, Representative Joe Wilkinson, Chris Young (Chief of Protocol) and American – Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICCSE) President Mr. Tom Glaser.

❖ The meeting was followed by a morning seminar at Ra'anana's Visitor Center in Yad Labanim entitled "Georgia, US Gateway for Israeli technology companies" with Israeli businesses and companies interested in expanding into the Southeastern US. Mr. Ilan Friedman, President, Adept Strategies, an ARSCC founder who moved to Ra'anana in 2004 and helped organize the Governor's visit to Ra'anana, represents the AICCSE in Ra'anana to foster economic cooperation.



Rabbi Hillel Norry, Congregation Shearith Israel, Atlanta & Ra'anana Masorti Congregation President, Mr. Saul Turecki

❖ The twinning between the Ra'anana Masorti Congregation and the Shearith Israel Synagogue in Atlanta continues with visits by leading members of each congregation to the other. On September 10, Mr. and Mrs. Moritz Kleinman, Masorti congregants, visited Shearith Israel and enjoyed a Shabbat service and special "Kiddush" afterwards. On November 10, Sam Turecki, President, Ra'anana Masorti Congregation, met with Rabbi Hillel Noory of Shearith Israel, who was traveling in Israel as part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta's 10th Anniversary Mission.

❖ In education, the pen pal project continued this year with Ra'anana's Shaked Elementary School exchanging letters with students from Atlanta's Etz Chaim Hebrew School during the first half of 2005. The Yeladim Kindergarten of Ra'anana and the Greenfield Hebrew Academy agreed on December 19 to involve their kindergarten students in an exchange of letters. Teams from Ra'anana's Misgav and Aviv High Schools represented Israel in the FIRST High School Robotics Competition that was held in the Georgia Dome from April 21 - 23. The robotics teams were hosted by the Israel Consulate and the ARSCC in a special reception organized by Vice Consul Aviv Ezra.

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Atlanta - Rio de Janeiro Sister City Committee

- ❖ 2005 was a great year to our committee. We increased the number of members and support through the extension of relationships. Expanding the visibility of our committee, Wilma Kruger, board members and members worked hard during 2005. The results are expressed into new opportunities and challenges.
- ❖ April - Global Village. In a effort between the First Presbyterian Church in Douglasville and volunteers from 25 different countries, Global Village was a fantastic display of World Cultures. The ARJSCC helped in building the Brazilian booth with handcrafts, paintings, costumes and products from Brazil. There was also a performance of Brazilian music and dance.
- ❖ June - participated in CIFAL - City AIDS Americas conference.
- ❖ September - Discovery Brazil 2005 Trade Mission. With the sponsorship of TAM Brazilian Airlines the ARJSCC organized a trade mission trip to three different state capitals of Brazil. Twenty two people, from business people and officials from Atlanta City Hall, had the opportunity to experience the culture and cuisine and visit tourist and historical sites. They were received by government officials at the city of Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Salvador, BA and Recife, PE. Diplomacy and business connections were made. The excitement was so big that some business people went back to Brazil a few months after the first trip to close deals negotiated on the first trip.



The Discovery Brazil trade mission visits Recife (left) and meets the Rio-Atlanta counterpart committee (below).



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The Discovery Brazil trade mission reception at Rio city hall.

- ❖ October - First Lady of Cape Verde. Our committee received the honorable visit of the First Lady of Cape Verde, Adelcia Pires. We host a lunch with leaders of the Brazilian community who greeted our guest.
- ❖ November - Tri-Alliance Luncheon. ARJSCC, Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Pernambuco Partners of America hosted a lunch for members and friends at Fire of Brazil Steakhouse. It was great to network and enjoy the authentic Brazilian food.
- ❖ December - Monthly meeting visit of Georgianne Thomas. To end the activities before Christmas, our committee received the important visit of Georgianne Thomas, former Atlanta Sister City Commission Chair. She expressed her support to the work that we are doing. Georgianne Thomas is now a board member of Sister Cities International in Washington DC.
- ❖ Recognizing Erik Vozz for his two years of service as secretary. On the committee's behalf, Wilma Kruger provided Erik with a special recognition award for service and establishing the committee. Pattie Shaw was elected the new secretary for the committee.



Wilma Kruger thanks Erik Vozz for his work as secretary to ARJSCC.

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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

- ❖ On February 27, members and guests of the Dominican International Association (DIA) and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee (ASSCC) commemorated the 161st Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall.
- ❖ On behalf of the citizens of Atlanta and the Atlanta City Council, the Honorable Councilman Jim Maddox presented a proclamation to Dominican nationals residing in the City of Atlanta for their "significant contributions to the economic growth and well-being of the city, while enhancing the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and the Dominican Republic". Mayor's Director of International Affairs, Claire McLeveighn, highlighted the close ties that are being developed between Georgia and the Dominican Republic by business and community leaders of both countries. Georgia's House of Representative Pedro Marín, International Association of Caribbean Organization's President Glendon Thompson were among other distinguished guests who attended the commemoration.
- ❖ In September, Victor Ramirez, President of the DIA and Chairman of the ASSCC, Clelia Montes De Oca, Director of International Affairs of DIA, and Atlanta business owners participated in the first official meeting of the newly formed Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia. This meeting took place at the headquarters of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in city of Atlanta.



Inaugural meeting of the Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia.

- ❖ Members of the ASSCC and the DIA of Georgia commemorated the United Nations' International Day of Non Violence against Women, on November 25, at the Atlanta City Hall. It was the 45th anniversary of the Mirabal sisters assassination for their opposition to dictatorship in the Dominican Republic.
- ❖ For that special occasion, the ASSCC and the DIA launched the fundraising campaign 'A Brick for the Butterflies' to raise the funds needed to finish 'Parque Atlanta' at the entrance of Atlanta's twin city of Salcedo, birthplace of the Mirabal sisters. It was announced that anyone could purchase bricks online at www.dominicania.org.



United Nations International Day of Non-Violence Against Women commemoration.

- ❖ Claire McLeveighn, Director of External Affairs and International Relations of the city of Atlanta joined Victor Ramirez, Fernando Ramirez, President of the Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce and Joe Diaz, Manager of Tourism of Delta Air Lines for the ribbon cutting ceremony for Delta's inaugural flight from Atlanta to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on December 1st. This delegation was welcomed at Las Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo by a group of Delta representatives headed by James Sarvis, Director of Delta Air Lines for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Report continues on following page

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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee (Continued)



❖ The evening of the inaugural flight, Claire McLeveighn, Victor Ramírez, Fernando Ramírez and Arleen Pharr of Delta Air Lines accompanied Ms. Dedé Mirabal on a TV interview at the popular talk show 'Chévere Nights'. They also attended Delta's reception at Hotel Meliá Santo Domingo where they met with members of ADAVIT (Dominican Association of Travel Agents and Tourism) and ADOEXPO (Dominican Association of Exporters).

❖ The following day, in a courtesy visit, the Atlanta delegation was received by Honorable Clyde Bishop, US Consul General in Santo Domingo. Mr. Bishop explained how the US consulate processes visas to commercial and cultural delegations.

❖ The Dominican Ballet Roto participated in the event 'Cultures of the Caribbean' held at the World Trade Center Atlanta on Saturday December 2. This special event was organized by the International Association of Caribbean Organizations (IACO). The following Monday they delighted a big crowd of high school students and teachers with a dance performance at the Atlanta International School. Ballet Roto was brought to Atlanta for the second time by the Dominican International Association, and thanks to the sponsorship of Delta Air Lines and Santo Domingo Restaurant.

Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee (Continued)

❖ Tim Honey, executive director of Sister Cities International extended congratulations to his Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain on receipt of membership dues from Gia Gaspard-Taylor, President of the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee. Mr. Honey welcomed the City of Port of Spain into the Sister Cities International family.

❖ Congratulatory messages were also forwarded to the Port of Spain/Atlanta Sister City Committee by Norma Kendall-Hamlet, President of the Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee, and Ms. Georgianne Thomas, former ASCC Chair who is now appointed as Honorary Board Member for Sister Cities International.

❖ Prepared Thanksgiving dinners for international students attending Metro-Atlanta colleges and universities - November. Christmas party for international students who could not visit with their families - December.



Students of a special education school in Port of Spain having received the Trini ambassador mascot, Miss Trini, from Port of Spain visitor, Abe Fergusson.

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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

❖ In January our exchange student from Tbilisi, Nino Sesitashvili, began the final six months of her visit to the U.S.. The months were crowded with studying and frantic efforts to see as many historic sites as possible. Nino received a plaque from McEachern High School for her accomplishments and was recognized by The First Baptist Church of Powder Springs, for work with Children's Handbells. On June 26th Nino left her new friends in the U.S.A. and returned to Tbilisi and her parents.



Nino, on the right, with her friend Laura Toft at the Swan House in Atlanta.

❖ On July 4th Tom and Mary McCullough departed for Tbilisi. The purpose of the visit was to visit friends, meet Nino's parents (see *photograph below*) and to coordinate sister city activities with the newly appointed officials of Tbilisi. On July 11 we had the opportunity to meet with the Tbilisi mayor and exchange city flags. The mayor committed to improve the Atlanta/Tbilisi Sister Cities by creating a counterpart committee in Tbilisi and improving communications between the cities. The meeting with the Mayor was followed by a more detailed conference with the Mayor's staff, members of USAID and personnel from the U.S. Embassy. Discussions centered on an exchange of data and possibly a visit to Atlanta by Tbilisi city officials. The meeting was followed by a luncheon hosted by Ms. Pat Moeller, Deputy Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia.



❖ On December 5th five members of the Tbilisi city government, two members of NGO's working with Tbilisi and a representative from USAID arrived in Atlanta. The delegation was led by Mr. George Maladze, Vice Premier (Deputy Mayor). Claire McLeveigh and Antoine Banks in the Atlanta Mayor's office set up meetings with each department head of the Atlanta city government. Considerable information was provided on budgets, municipal operations, economic development and procurement.

❖ On December 11th the delegation had the opportunity to meet with Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. Ms. Franklin was a part of the original delegation that traveled to Tbilisi when the Sister City relationship was established. Separate meetings were held with the Atlanta Fire Rescue and Atlanta Police Departments. Each of the departments outlined procedural operations and the requirements for certification.



Above: Mr. George Maladze, Vice Premier (Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi) and other members of the Tbilisi delegation discuss municipal issues with Atlanta Mayor, Shirley Franklin.

Below: The Tbilisi delegation at the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA. with a woman portraying Eleanor Roosevelt.



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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee (cont'd)

❖ The delegation was hosted by many organizations and several private individuals. The Atlanta Coca Cola Company and The Halle Institute at Emory University provided luncheons. They toured the Jimmy Carter Center and museum, The MLK Center, The Atlanta Zoo, The Robinson School of Business, and The Atlanta History Center. The delegation traveled to the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA where they were hosted by Dr. Dave Harrell for a tour and Bar B Q at his home.

❖ They were also hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hassinger at a reception in their home and by BG (Ret) Mike Seely and his wife Gail for dinner at the Smith House in Dahlonega, GA. Other trips were made to the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, the Cobb County economic development committee, and two members of the delegation traveled to Savannah, Ga. for discussions on historic preservation.

❖ The committee continued to work with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hassinger to obtain humanitarian and medical equipment for shipment to Georgia. In December we were advised of an X-Ray machine that was available at a hospital in Knoxville Tennessee. Jack Hassinger, Tom McCullough and Art Summers traveled to Knoxville, completed the dismantling of the machine and brought it back to Marietta, Ga.. There it will be packaged and sent to the Republic of Georgia.

❖ Plans for 2006 include cultural exchanges, economic development cooperation, and expansion of the existing Sister Cities relationship.



Vaja Salamadze and David Basiashvili meet with City officials Ms. Edna Jackson and Mr. Pearson Deloach in Savannah, Ga.

Lagos - Atlanta Sister City Committee (cont'd)

❖ Some members of the LASCC participated in a Special Memorial Service at the Consulate General of Nigeria honoring the memories of late Chief (Mrs.) Stella Obasanjo, Nigeria's First lady and a frequent visitor to Atlanta, and the 117 Nigerians who lost their lives during the fatal crash of Belview Airlines plane that took off from Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos bound for Abuja. Professor Esogbue provided condolence message on behalf of the Nigerian community in Georgia and the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee.

❖ Professor Esogbue was joined by several members of the LASCC and the EKO Clubs of Atlanta at the Special Community Leadership Awards ceremonies honoring him along with the CEO/President of Grady Memorial Hospital as Distinguished Nigerians who have uplifted the image of Nigeria and served as great ambassadors of the country. The ceremony which took place during the Nigerian Independence celebration also welcomed the new Nigerian Consul General, Hon. Victor Bosah to Atlanta.

2005 Independence Day ceremony welcoming the new Consul General of Nigeria, Hon. Victor Bosah, and Community Leadership Award

for the LASCC Chair, Dr. Esogbue, given by the Alliance of Nigerian Organizations in Georgia. Dr. Esogbue and Hon. Bosah are flanked by members of the Lagos Atlanta Sister City Committee.



❖ The LASCC also endorsed the participation of the Secretary General of the Atlanta Lagos Committee, Prince Bashiru Agunloye, in the workshop on "Searching the social care literature: a practical workshop on using the internet and online data bases" being organized the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), London in a Workshop. The Chair of LASCC pledged a \$500 scholarship to facilitate Prince Agunloye's participation. Such knowledge is deemed useful in promoting the effectiveness of the Lagos Atlanta Committee.

❖ The LASCC worked with the Nigerian Consulate General, to facilitate and promote the successful U.S. trade mission of the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce whose visit to Atlanta lasted from October 22 to 24, 2005. Members of the LASCC also participated in a seminar presented by a touring team of officials from Nigeria discussing the new health insurance plan for Nigerians.

2005 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee



ATSCC chair, Betty Davis, at the Phoenix unveiling ceremony in Toulouse.

❖ 2005 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the twinning of Atlanta and Toulouse. Ceremonies taking place in May featured the unveiling of the Phoenix statue — a work offered by the city of Atlanta to her sister city in order to commemorate the tragedy of the explosion at the AZF chemical plant on September 21, 2001. The Phoenix - which was reborn from its ashes - is the emblem of Atlanta. The ATSCC suggested bringing this same symbol of compassion, empathy, renewal, friendship and rejuvenation to Toulouse in the wake the catastrophe.

❖ The statue, entitled "l'Envol du Phoenix," was conceived by Atlanta artist, David Landis, who attended the unveiling ceremony on May 20th at the Compans-Caffarelli Garden. 65 Atlantans made the trip to Toulouse for this presentation and to celebrate the 30 years of the sister city relationship. His work was chosen from three finalists' maquettes presented to the Mayor of Toulouse. Executed in bronze, this work has a wing-spread of 4.25 meters (about 14 feet), a height of 1.65 meters.



- ❖ In honor of the sister city relationship, a street in Toulouse has been named Avenue Atlanta.
- ❖ In January, the committee held its annual Fête des Rois, a traditional Francophile Epiphany event featuring the King 's Cake with its baked-in prize that designates its finder as 'king ' of the party. Guests bring their least favorite holiday gift to exchange.
- ❖ In March the ATSCC hosted a presentation of the work and life of Antoine St. Exupery by Chris and Mary Ellen Allan. The group also held a luncheon for 24 members at a new Cordon Bleu cooking school following a tour of the facilities.
- ❖ The ATSCC summer program included a meeting at the Globe restaurant with a private showing of the movie Amelie and an event at the South of France Restaurant in honor of Bastille Day, July 14th. The new consul general of France, Mr. Philippe Ardanaz, was welcomed to Atlanta at a reception on September 30th.



ATSCC Planning Committee preparing for the Fourth Annual Wonderful World of Wine event.

❖ In October the ATSCC held the Gallo Family's Wonderful World of Wine event at the InterContinental Hotel in Buckhead. The evening included dinner, the tasting of special wines and a silent

auction with all proceeds going to complete the financing of the "A Phoenix for Toulouse" project.

❖ Following the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the City of Toulouse and private companies donated over \$50,000 in clothing and supplies for the evacuees that relocated to Atlanta. Among the three tons of humanitarian aid were school supplies, diapers, clothing, shoes, etc.

Philippe Ardanaz, Atlanta's Consul General of France, signing a memorandum of understanding allowing the City of Atlanta to accept the humanitarian donation from Toulouse, France. The signing ceremony took place at City Hall, Atlanta, on January 26th, 2006.



❖ The ATSCC looks forward to welcoming a delegation of Toulousains from the Jumelage Toulouse – Atlanta in April, 2006 and a delegation of city officials in October, 2006. The City of Toulouse has expressed an interest in strengthening the ties between the cities in the educational and



Members of ATSCC and representatives of the City of Atlanta present the flag of Toulouse to members of Atlanta's City Council. The flags were a gift from Toulouse's Mayor Moudenc during the 30th anniversary ceremony at the Toulouse Mairie (City Hall) in May 2005.

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Members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

From left to right, back row: David Chang Hong, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; Dr. Cedric Suzman, Southern Center for International Studies - (appointed); David Smith, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Great Britain; Hon. Vin Martin, Montego Bay, Jamaica; Norma Kendall - Hamlet, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Samuel Bacote (appointed); Sumiko Renfro, Fukuoka, Japan; Victor Ramirez, Salcedo, Dominican Republic. Front row: Claire McLeveigh, director of External Affairs and International Relations, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta; Dr. Arnold Heller, Ra'anana, Israel (ASCC Vice Chair); Teri Simmons, Nürnberg, Germany (ASCC Chair); Dr. Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia Greece; Betty Davis, Toulouse, France.



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Mayor's Office of International Affairs
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